JIMMY BRESLIN

Eire Is Certain It Was a Plot

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DUBLIN, Feb. 24—The same bulletin had been on the radio all the night before and now it had been running all day, but the minute the voice coming out of the radio said, "good afternoon, and now for the news" everybody in the pub stopped talking. ". . . In New Orleans, a man being investigated by the district attorney as a possible plotter in the assassination of President Kennedy has been found dead . . ."

Eugene Kearns put his pint of stout down. "They're *boomping* off the witnesses now," he said. An old man sitting at a table against the wall called out, "There's a plot and anybody divulges the plot will passout. Just like this one down at New Orleans. He was about to divulge and now he's pased out." Everybody nodded.

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ON THE RADIO, THE NEWS ANNOUNCER was conducting a phone interview with somebody in New Orleans. The news announcer said, "So Ferrie's death becomes a question mark?" The voice from New Orleans said yes. They heard this in the pubs and homes and cars all over Ireland and the papers being sold on the streets were filled with the same thing.

Last night, it was all the people of Dublin seemed to be talking about. In crowds leaving work, on the buses, in the cabs, in the pubs, at the Abbey Theater, you heard only one topic. "Now it surely seems to be a plot and I guess the sooner they tell everybody the better off they'll be," Beatrice Behan, the wife of the late writer, was saying.

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IT WAS DISTURBING TO HEAR so many people accepting a story like this. Taken by himself, David Ferrie would have been another glassy-eyed guy trying to get his name into the paper. But given status by this investigation run by James Garrison, the incredible New Orleans district attorney, Ferrie in death becomes a plot.

Here in Dublin the people never are going to believe anything else and they will pass the story to their children. In Ireland, where the name Kennedy comes from, the Warren Commission report probably was buried for good yesterday. Four students from Trinity College sat in the large Johnston, Mooney and O'Brien coffee shop near the school and what they said is about what everybody else was saying.

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"LEE OSWALD CERTAINLY WAS NOT the only one, I think even the Warren Commission has to admit that now," Nick Loon, 20, said. "All these people dead as a result of being caught up by the assassination, what else can it mean but a conspiracy?" Dennis Molyneux, 19, said. "This bloke Garrison was on the right track until they killed his witness."

"Unless they act on this thing now, pretty soon there'll be nobody left to kill, or to question," Hugh Smyth, 20, said.

"This has been going on for so long," Bob Miller said, "and people still act as if it's a mystery why everybody gets killed. Sure it's a mystery, a murder mystery."

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"HAVE ANY OF YOU READ the Warren report," they were asked.

"Why bother to read a big report when there are dead bodies around continually?" one of them said. In the United States, the assassination, the great failure of life, has been breeding other human failures around it from the start. But slowly, the impact of some of these failures could be running out for now anyway. The Warren report, sloppily assembled, does make enough basic factual sense to last. When the Mark Lane wave recedes, it will take much of the talk about the report with it. Oh, not for good. The report is a standard. But it will fade for awhile at the welcome least. And some of the abnormal interest in anything that has the Kennedy name attached to it might dissipate, too.

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THE MANCHESTER BOOK CONTROVERSY helped start this. The something like eight books about Robert Kennedy due to be published in the next year could make people tired of reading about him for now. But in Ireland, the Warren report yesterday lost any chance it ever had of surviving with the people.

All they will believe now is stories, as many as can be printed, of dead bodies in New Orleans and a huge conspiracy to kill one of their national heroes.